

Vertisols have a high content of expanding clay minerals. They undergo pronounced changes in volume with changes in moisture. They have cracks that open and close periodically, and that show evidence of soil movement in the profile.

Because they swell when wet, vertisols transmit water very slowly and have undergone little leaching. They tend to be fairly high in natural fertility.

VERTISOLS MAKE UP ABOUT 2% OF THE WORLD'S ICE-FREE LAND SURFACE.